

NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

MARYLAND FIELD OFFICE

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ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Mixture of Weather Proves Beneficial for Farmers

The weather during the spring has been a mixture of warm days, cool nights, and timely rain storms which allowed farmers in Maryland and Delaware to plant crops in soils with good moisture. The development of crops for both states in general is ahead of normal. According to the "Acreage Report" released on June 30th by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, farmers have decreased corn acreage in nearly all states while soybean acreage has increased. This report encompasses a survey that was conducted and based on June 1 conditions throughout the Nation.

Maryland: Maryland farmers are expected to plant 480,000 acres of corn in 2008, down 11 percent from 540,000 acres planted in 2007. They expect to harvest 410,000 acres for grain, with the remaining acreage harvested for silage or other uses. Soybean acreage is expected to increase 18 percent to 470,000 acres. Farmers also report that they will harvest 215,000 acres of winter wheat and 45,000 acres of barley, in 2008. Summer potato farmers will harvest 2,700 acres, down 10 percent from last year. In addition, farmers expect to harvest 45,000 acres of alfalfa and 160,000 acres of other types of hay.

Delaware: Delaware farmers indicate that they have planted 160,000 acres of corn this spring, down 18 percent from 195,000 acres of corn planted in 2007. A total of 152,000 acres are expected to be harvest for grain with the remaining acres harvest for silage or other uses. Farmers indicate that they will also plant 185,000 acres of soybeans, up 23 percent from last year. Farmers expect to harvest 78,000 acres of winter wheat and 22,000 acres of barley in the upcoming weeks. Summer potato farmers will harvest 1,900 acres, down 5 percent from last year. Hay will be cut from an estimated 15,000 acres, the same acreage as 2007.

United States: Corn planted area for all purposes is estimated at 87.3 million acres, down 7 percent from last year. Despite the decrease, corn planted acreage is the second highest since 1946, behind last year's total of 93.6 million acres. Growers expect to harvest 78.9 million acres for grain, down 9 percent from 2007. If realized, this would be the second highest since 1944, behind last year. Farmers increased corn plantings 1.31 million acres from their March intentions. Planting got off to a slow start across the Corn Belt, Ohio Valley, and the northern half of the Great Plains as frequent precipitation and cool temperatures during March and April prevented spring planting preparations. Corn planting was 27 percent complete on May 4, down 32 points from normal. Despite intermittent showers and below normal temperatures, producers were able to make rapid progress during May, particularly across the upper Midwest and northern Great Plains. Farmers reported that 97 percent of the intended corn acreage had been planted at the time of the survey interview compared with the average of 98 percent for the past 10 years.

Soybean planted area for 2008 is estimated at 74.5 million acres, up 17 percent from last year but 1 percent below the record high acreage in 2006. Area for harvest, at 72.1 million acres, is up 15 percent from 2007. Compared with last year, planted acreage increases are expected in all States, and the U.S. planted area for soybeans is the third largest on record. The largest increase is expected in Nebraska, up 950,000 acres from 2007, followed by Illinois and South Dakota, both up 900,000 acres. Increases of at least 800,000 acres are also expected in Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota. If realized, the planted acreage in Kansas, New York, and Pennsylvania will be the largest on record. Nationally, farmers reported that 79 percent of the intended soybean acreage had been planted at the time of the survey interview, which is the lowest since 1996.

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION 2007 AND 2008

Commodity Unit 2007 2008 2009			Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production		
Corn¹ ACR 540 480 <	Commodity	Unit								2008	
Com, Grain BU	•				2000		2000				
Corn, Grain Corn, Silage Corn, Silage TON	Corn ¹	ACR	540	480							
Soybeans¹ BU 400 470 380 460 27					455	410	103		46,865		
Wheat, Winter BU 220 255 170 215 68 66 11,560 14, Barley¹ BU 45 50 34 45 84 2,856 Hay, All TON 40 45 84 2,856 462 462 462 462 462 462 462 462 462	Corn, Silage	TON			75		12		900		
Barley¹ BU 45 50 34 45 84 2,856 Hay, All TON 215 205 2.15 462 Hay, Alfalfa TON 40 45 2.80 112 Hay, Other TON 175 160 2.00 350 Apples LBS	Soybeans ¹	BU	400	470	380	460	27		10,260		
Hay, All TON 215 205 2.15 462 Hay, Alfalfa TON 40 45 2.80 112 Hay, Other TON 175 160 2.00 350 350 Apples LBS 33,000 960 350 33,000 960 960 33,000 960 33,000 960 33,000 960	Wheat, Winter	BU	220	255	170	215	68	66	11,560	14,190	
Hay, Alfalfa TON 40 45 2.80 112 Hay, Other TON 175 160 2.00 350 Apples LBS 33,000 Peaches TON 175 160 2.00 33,000 Peaches TON 33,000 Potatoes, Summer CWT 3.0 2.7 3.0 2.7 320 960 Potatoes, Summer CWT 3.0 2.7 3.0 2.7 320 960 Potatoes, Summer CWT 3.0 2.7 3.0 2.7 320 960 Potatoes, Summer CWT 3.0 2.7 3.0 2.7 320 960 Potatoes, Summer CWT 3.0 2.7 3.0 2.7 320 960 Potatoes, Summer CWT 3.0 2.7 3.0 2.7 320 960 Potatoes, Summer CWT 3.0 2.7 3.0 2.7 320 960 Potatoes, Summer CWT 2.0 1.85 152 97 17,945 Potatoes, Summer CWT 2.0 1.9 2.0 1.9 2.0 1.9 2.0 3.480 Potatoes, Summer CWT 2.0 1.9 2.0 1.9 2.0 1.9 2.0 18 18 Potatoes, Summer CWT 2.0 1.9 2.0 1.9 2.0 1.9 2.0 18 13,074 Potatoes, Summer CWT 2.0 1.9 2.0 1.9 2.0 1.9 2.0 18 13,074 Potatoes, Summer CWT 2.0 1.9 2.0 1.9 2.0 1.9 2.0 18 13,074 Potatoes, Summer CWT 2.0 1.9 2.0 1.9 2.0 1.9 2.0 18 13,074 Potatoes, Summer CWT 2.0 1.9 2.0 1.9 2.0 1.9 2.0 18 13,074 Potatoes, Summer CWT 2.0 1.9 2.0 1.9 2.0 1.9 2.0 18 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5	Barley ¹	BU	45	50	34	45	84		2,856		
Hay, Other TON 175 160 2.00 350 Apples LBS 33,000 8,000 33,000 9,000 9,	Hay, All	TON			215	205	2.15		462		
Apples LBS 33,000 Peaches TON 33,3 33,3 Potatoes, Summer CWT 3.0 2.7 3.0 2.7 320 960 Potatoes, Summer CWT 3.0 2.7 3.0 2.7 320 960 Potatoes, Summer CWT 3.0 2.7 3.0 2.7 320 960 Potatoes, Summer CWT 3.0 2.7 3.0 2.7 320 960 Potatoes, Summer CWT 3.0 2.7 3.0 2.7 320 960 Potatoes, Summer CWT 3.0 2.7 3.0 2.7 320 960 Potatoes, Summer CWT 2.0 1.9 2.0 1.9 2.0 1.9 2.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.8 1.8 1.8 1.9 1.9 1.0 1.0 1.8 1.8 1.9 1.0 1.0 1.8 1.8 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.8 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0	Hay, Alfalfa	TON			40	45	2.80		112		
Peaches TON 3.3 3.3 3.3 3.3 3.3	Hay, Other	TON			175	160	2.00		350		
Delaware CWT 3.0 2.7 3.0 2.7 320 — 960 — Delaware Corn¹ ACR 195 160 —— <t< td=""><td>Apples</td><td>LBS</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>33,000</td><td></td></t<>	Apples	LBS							33,000		
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Corn¹ ACR 195 160 17,945 17,945 17,945 17,945 17,945 17 10 70 10 70 3,480 3,480 3,480 3,480 3,480 3,480 3,480 3,480 3,480 3,480 3,480 3,480 3,480 3,480 3,480 3,480 3,480 3,480 3	Potatoes, Summer	CWT	3.0	2.7	3.0	2.7	320		960		
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Corn¹ ACR 93,600 87,327	•		2.0	1.9							
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Apples LBS 9,343 Peaches TON 1.11	•										
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Potatoes, Summer CWT 53.7 48.0 51.3 45.5 332 17.0	Potatoes, Summer	CWT	53.7	48.0	51.3	45.5	332		17.0		

¹ Acres planted for all purposes.